

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AF-10 ARA-16

EUR-25 NIC-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /184 W

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R 141100Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 19

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CE

SUBJ: ISSUES AT 28TH UNGA

REF: STATE 162623, STATE 163147, COLOMBO 2147

1. SUMMARY: DURING MEETING SEPT 10, EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSSED VARIOUS UN ISSUES WITH K. K. BRECKENRIDGE, MDFA ASSISTANT SECTY FOR UN AFFAIRS. HE CONFIRMED COMPOSITION SRI LANKA'S UN DELEGATION WHICH REPORTED SEPTEL (COLOMBO 2267). END SUMMARY.

2. KOREA: CONVERSATION CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON KOREAN ISSUE WITH BRECKENRIDGE INDICATING CEYLONese POSITION WOULD DEPEND STRONGLY ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AMB AMERASINGHE AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. AS BOTH SOVIETS AND PRC ARE OPPOSED TO RAISING DUAL MEMBERSHIP QUESTION, HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT SRI LANKA WOULD ABSTAIN ON ANY RESOLUTIONS ON WHICH GENERAL AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN REACHED. HE NOTED DISBANDMENT OF UNCURK APPEARED TO BE ONLY GENERALLY AGREED ISSUE. BRECKENRIDGE ASKED WHAT US POSITION WAS ON DRAFT RESOLUTIONS WHICH JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA WERE PLANNING
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TO PUT FORWARD. EMBOFF SAID WE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT

AGAIN WENT OVER US POSITION, WHICH AMBASSADOR HAD PREVIOUSLY RAISED WITH MDFA SECTY W.T. JAYASINGHE (COLOMBO 2147), AND STRESSED US VIEW THAT CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH BY ROK SHOULD BE SUPPORTED BY ALL COUNTRIES. EMBASSY DOUBTS SRI LANKA WILL TAKE ANY INITIATIVE ON KOREAN ISSUE AND AMB AMERASINGHE WILL PLAY DECISIVE ROLE IN DETERMINING CEYLONESE POSITION ON THESE ISSUES.

3. TERRORISM AND CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF DIPLOMATS: BRECKENRIDGE, AFTER CHECKING WITH MDFA LEGAL ADVISER C.W. PINTO, SAID GSL WOULD SUPPORT EFFORTS TO COMPLETE CONVENTION. PINTO, SRI LANKA REP ON ILC, IS FAMILIAR WITH DRAFT ARTICLES. HOWEVER, PINTO HAD STRONG DOUBTS THAT CONVENTION COULD BE COMPLETED THIS SESSION DUE TO LIKELIHOOD TERRORISM ISSUE WOULD BECOME INTERTWINED AND RHETORIC ON IT WOULD SLOW UP EFFORTS TO COMPLETE CONVENTION. EMBOFF REITERATED US VIEW THAT PRESSING NEED IS FOR CONCRETE ACTIONS TO FIGHT PROBLEM OF TERRORISM. BRECKENRIDGE SAID GSL SYMPATHETIC TO PROBLEM BUT STILL HAD RESERVATIONS ON MANDATORY SANCTIONS AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT PROPOSALS SUCH AS SOVIETS HAVE PUT FORWARD WHICH WOULD REQUIRE EXTRADITION.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS: EMBOFF STATED US VIEW THAT BROADER TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS NEEDED AND INDICATED US SUPPORT FOR DRAFT ACTION PROGRAM TO COMBAT RACISM, ESTABLISHMENT OF UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND DRAFTING OF DECLARATION ON ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE. BRECKENRIDGE SAID GSL COULD SUPPORT DECLARATION BUT TOOK DIM VIEW OF "MECHANISMS" SUCH AS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH MIGHT BE ENDOWED WITH PUNITIVE POWERS. HE ALSO NOTED ATTEMPTS TO BROADEN TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY INCLUDING QUESTIONS SUCH AS RIGHTS OF NON-CITIZEN RESIDENTS WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF SRI LANKA'S INDIAN TAMIL SITUATION.

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS: US OPPOSITION TO REOPENING 25 PERCENT ASSESSMENT ISSUE, SUPPORT FOR AUSTERITY BUDGET, AND DESIRE TO LIMIT TRAVEL TO ECONOMY CLASS FOR THOSE BELOW DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL WERE OUTLINED. BRECKENRIDGE INDICATED GSL CONSIDERS 25 PERCENT ASSESSMENT ISSUE CLOSED BOOK AND THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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GSL HAS NO STRONG VIEWS ON BUDGET PROBLEM AND QUESTION OF CHANGING FROM DOLLARS AS CURRENCY UNIT FOR UN BUDGET. ON TRAVEL, HE NOTED THAT AMB AMERASINGHE HAD MADE OAMIMILAR PROPOSAL LONG TIME AGO AND HAD COME UNDER HEAVY FIRE FROM VESTED INTERESTS FOR HAVING TEMERITY TO TRY TO REDUCE THEIR PERQUISITES. QUITE LIKELY GSL WOULD SUPPORT US POSITION AND USUN APPROACH TO AMERASINGHE ON THIS ISSUE MIGHT BE USEFUL.

6. BRECKENRIDGE ASKED WHETHER US POSITION ON INDIAN OCEAN REMAINS SAME AND WE WOULD CONTINUE BE UNABLE SUPPORT PROPOSAL. ASKED WHETHER ANY PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN GETTING AGREEMENT AMONG LITTORAL STATES AS TO HOW TO PROCEED WITH PROPOSAL, BRECKENRIDGE SAID CONSULTATIONS HAD NOT ACCOMPALISHED ANYTHING SO FAR AND THERE WAS, AS YET, NOT EVEN AGREEMENT ON HOW TO BEGIN.

7. BRECKENRIDGE ALSO ASKED WHAT US POSITION IS ON WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND MIDDLE EAST. DRAWING ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED STATE 163147, EMBOFF INDICATED US POSITION THAT DISCUSSION THESE ITEMS AT UNGA AT THIS TIME WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AND, IN CASE OF MIDDLE EAST, COULD EXACERBATE SITUATION.
VAN HOLLEN

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